

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00158 130848Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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R 130825Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6521

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHERAN

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 0158

E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: PFOR, SW, IR

SUBJECT: SWEDISH GOVERNMENT APPEALS FOR CLEMENCY IN IRANIAN DEATH

SENTENCES

1. ACCORDING TO SWEDISH PRESS, MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL

SVERKER ASTROM CALLED ON IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ISSA MALEK ON
JANUARY 9 AND PRESENTED HIM WITH PLEA FOR CLEMENCY ON
BEHALF OF 10 IRANIANS RECENTLY SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR
TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. IN MAKING PLEA, ASTROM STRESSED
SWEDISH OPPOSITION TO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND GOS EFFORTS
TO OBTAIN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS TO ABOLISH DEATH PENALTY.

2. IN PROTEST AGAINST PLANNED EXECUTIONS, 15 IRANIAN

STUDENTS HELD 60 HOUR HUNGER STRIKE IN LUND LAST WEEK.
THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY SIT-IN AT LUND CATHEDRAL AFTER
SUNDAY SERVICE. GROUP DEMANDED THAT (1) ARCHBISHOP OF
SWEDISH STATE CHURCH SEND TELEGRAM TO IRANIAN PM
HOVEYDA PROTESTING DEATH SENTENCES; (2) GOS SEND
OBSERVER TO ATTEND POSSIBLE APPEALS COURT HEARING; AND
(3) GOS SEND TEAM OF DOCTORS AND LAWYERS TO IRAN TO
INVESTIGATE CONDITIONS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.
ARCHBISHOP TURNED DOWN DEMAND BUT DEAN OF LUND CATHEDRAL
DID AGREE TO SEND PERSONAL MESSAGE TO IRANIAN EMBASSY,
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 00158 130848Z

AFTER WHICH STUDENTS THEN DISCONTINUED SIT-IN. ABOUT ONE

HUNDRED IRANIAN STUDENTS AND SYMPATHIZERS ALSO DEMONSTRATED
IN FRONT OF IRANIAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM ON SATURDAY
AFTER MARCHING THROUGH DOWNTOWN AREA.

3. IRANIAN EMBASSY ISSUED PRESS RELEASE DATED JANUARY 7
WHICH DEFENDED CONVICTIONS ON GROUNDS CONVICTED MEN HAD
ENGAGED IN PURELY CRIMINAL ACTS WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL
ASPECTS WHATSOEVER. STATEMENT SPECIFIED MURDER OF THREE
US CITIZENS (COLONELS HAWKINS, TURNER AND SHEFFER) AND
FIVE IRANIANS AS WELL AS STEALING OF ARMS AND ARMED
ROBBERY.

4. IN ITS REPORTING OF CONVICTIONS OF IRANIAN TERRORISTS,
LOCAL PRESS HAS NOT REFERRED TO FACT THAT THE CONDEMNED
ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MURDERS OF AMERICAN OFFICERS.

STRAUSZ-HUPE

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